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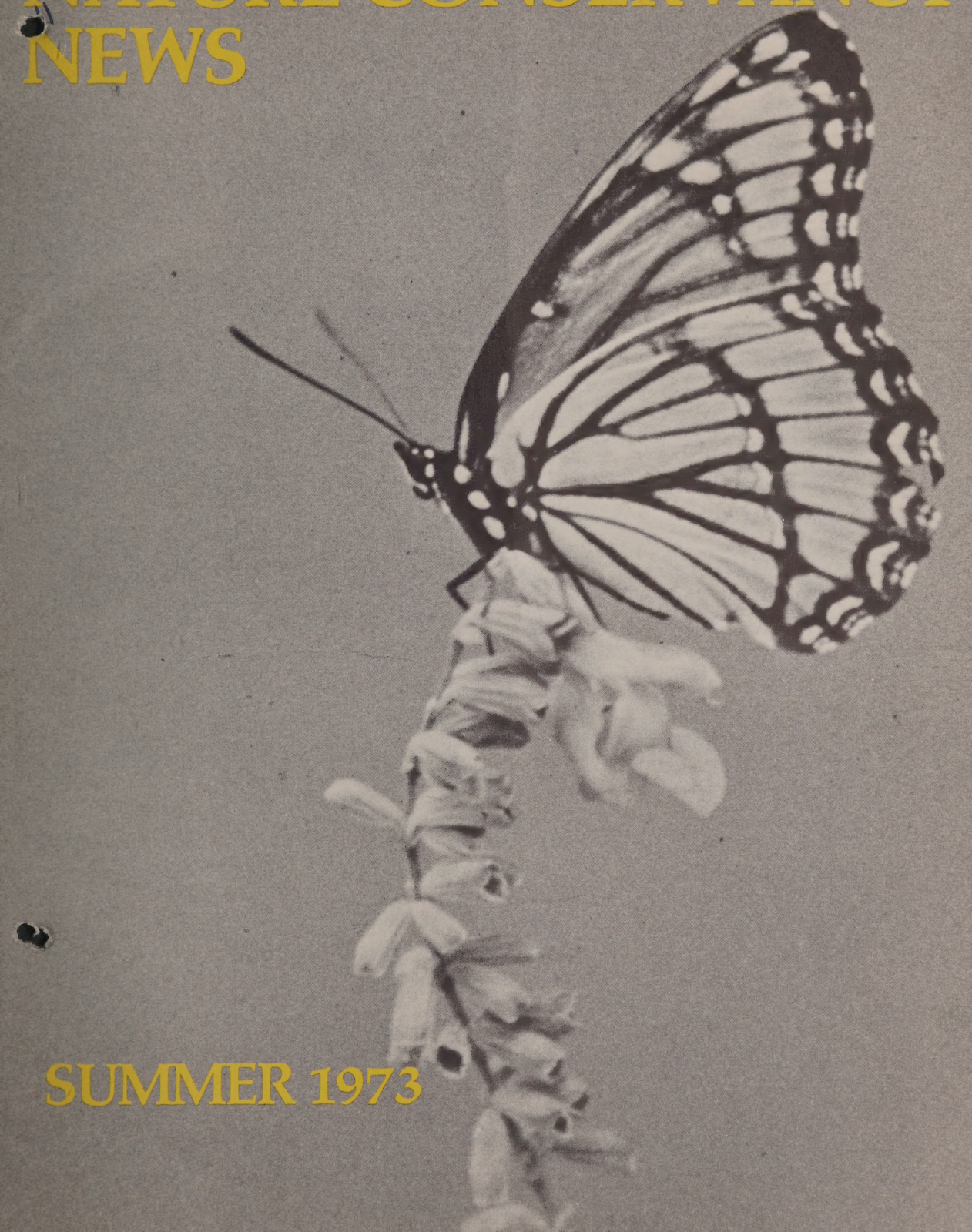

SUMMER 1973

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The Nature Conservancy

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS
Published Quarterly by The Nature Conservancy
1800 North Kent Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Sue Dodge, Editor

Volume 23, Number 3 **Summer 1973**

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LAND CONSERVATION THROUGH PRIVATE ACTION

The Nature Conservancy is the only national conservation organization, receiving its support from the public, whose resources are devoted to the preservation of ecologically and environmentally significant land.

Some 377,499 acres of forests, swamps, marshes, prairies, mountains, beaches, and islands in 987 projects throughout the United States, have been saved from destruction by the Conservancy since the acquisition of its first preserve in 1954.

The Nature Conservancy works in three ways to protect threatened natural areas: by purchase of land with funds raised through public subscription, by acceptance of donations of land, and by advance acquisition of land for local, state, and federal governments.

A member-governed non-profit organization, The Nature Conservancy was incorporated in 1951 in the District of Columbia for scientific and educational purposes.

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Members receive the *News.*
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Contributions to The Nature Conservancy are tax-deductible.

NEW PROJECTS

California

KAZAN TRACT—Addition, San Francisco Bay Project—(San Francisco County). The .92-acre tract, located on Candlestick Point within the San Francisco Bay Project, is a donation from James and Evelyn Kazan.

Florida

MANATEE SPRINGS STATE PARK—Cummer Tract—(Levy County). The State of Florida's Department of Natural Resources acquired a 276-acre critical inholding in Manatee Springs State Park through an option secured by the Conservancy. The undisturbed river swamp includes 8,000 feet of frontage on the Suwannee River and provides needed buffer for Manatee Springs State Park.

Idaho

CLEAR CREEK RANCH (Lemhi County). An inholding in the Salmon National Forest, the 133-acre tract consists of the Clear and Panther Creek bottoms, meadows, benches, gentle slopes, and forested hillsides. It is in a ponderosa pine forest area, and elevations run between 3,400 and 3,600 feet. The property is to be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service.

Illinois

GENSBURG-MARKHAM PRAIRIE—Additions—(Cook County). Eight tracts totaling approximately 3.5 acres were purchased for addition to the 88-acre Gensburg-Markham Prairie, located just south of Chicago. Fund raising is underway by the Illinois Chapter, and the tracts are scheduled for ultimate transfer to and management by Northeastern Illinois University. See article beginning on page 10.

LAKE FOREST PRESERVE—Rosauer Addition—(Lake County). The Lake Forest Open Lands Association, an organization working cooperatively with the Conservancy's Illinois Chapter, has initiated fund raising on the second tract (5.5 acres) of a proposed 100-acre preserve near Chicago. The area contains hardwood forest interspersed with prairie openings, both wet and dry. The Rosauer tract will serve as a buffer for the remainder of the area which is to be used as a wildlife sanctuary, research area, and for limited recreational use. Upon completion of fund-raising, the area will be conveyed to the Lake Forest Open Lands Association for management.

Indiana

SHRADER-WEAVER NATURE PRESERVE (Fayette County). This relatively undisturbed woodland includes a superb stand of old growth

beech-maple forest, which is separated from a more modified but still good woodland by an open field and a stream. The property, acquired with the assistance of the Indiana Chapter, will be conveyed to the State of Indiana for administration by the Department of Natural Resources. The 108-acre woodland is a gift of Laz and Edith Weaver.

Kansas

FLINT HILLS TALLGRASS PRAIRIE (Butler and Greenwood Counties). Two contiguous tracts, 634 and 1,554 acres, represent an outstanding example of native tallgrass prairie. Situated on low rolling hills approximately 50 miles northeast of Wichita, the area supports excellent populations of big and little bluestem, Indian and switch grass, and forbs and legumes typical of the tallgrass biome. A wooded bottomland supports deer and coyote. Funds for the acquisition of both tracts were provided by Miss Katharine Ordway. The area will be leased for light grazing and will receive management guidance from Kansas prairie experts.

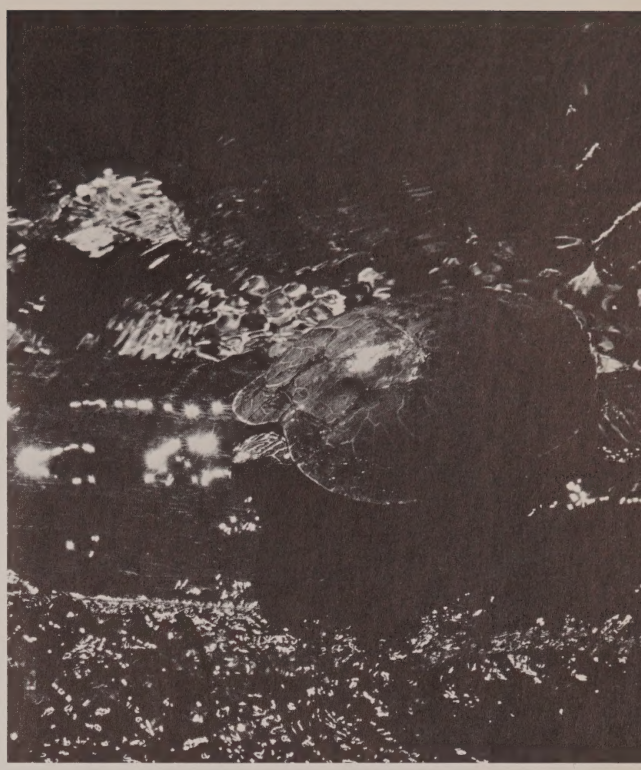
Maine

CROCKETT COVE WOODS—Addition—(Hancock County). 51 acres, donated by Mrs. Emily Muir, were added to Crockett Cove Woods. The area features high granite ledges forested with spruce and fir. Preserve management is under the guidance of the Maine Chapter.

Minnesota

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA—VERN LAKE TIMBER RIGHTS (Cook County). The Conservancy purchased the timber rights on 196 acres owned by the U.S. Forest Service. The rights had been owned by a timber company which planned to cut the area. The woodland is primarily virgin black spruce with some balsam, aspen, birch and jack pine. This action protects over 4 miles of shoreline in the wilderness canoe area.

GRACE NATURE PRESERVE (Goodhue County). Located about 60 miles southeast of Minneapolis near the town of Kenyon, the 11-acre tract is basically hardwood forested bottomland with a moderately grazed meadow in the east central portion. The area is supporting habitat for the Minnesota trout lily (*Erythronium propullans*), which is the only known endemic flowering plant in the state, and is listed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as an endangered species. Funds for the project have been provided by the W. M. Foundation, and the Minnesota Chapter will assume management responsibility.



RIPLEY ESKER (Morrison County). The 240-acre tract, located approximately 100 miles northwest of Minneapolis, consists of an esker and surrounding grazing land. The esker is a steep-sided gravel ridge, a relic of the glacial age in Minnesota, supporting a fine native prairie. Future additions to the esker are being negotiated by the Minnesota Chapter. The Chapter will assume management responsibility.

New York

ARCHIBALD MANNING BROWN PRESERVE (Suffolk County). The 6-acre tract, primarily wetlands, supports vegetation typical of native lowland subject to tidal influence, and includes high-tide and grounsel bush, seaside wild rose, bayberry, and reeds. The northeastern portion is densely covered with mature shadbush. The preserve is a gift of Mrs. Eleanor S. Brown. Management responsibility will be assumed by the East End Branch of the Long Island Chapter.

GREAT GULLY—Crounse Tract—(Cayuga County). The 33-acre property is the first acquisition in a proposed assemblage of properties along and within Great Gully. The gully is a four mile scenic valley-ravine on the east side of Lake Cayuga, north of Aurora. The entire gully is wooded, with mixed hardwoods (basswood, red oak, white ash), white pine and hemlock.

HANS JEPPESON ISBRANDTSEN PRESERVE (Suffolk County). 67 acres located about 50 miles east of New York City include a shallow waterway, a small pond, and a 10-acre wetland fronting on Great South Bay. Dense thickets provide excellent habitat for many species of wildlife. The property is significant since it lies between a county-owned preserve and the Conservancy's Thorne Preserve, thus forming a contiguous block of approximately 400 acres of unspoiled land, including some excellent wetlands. The land will be transferred to and managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

HOPE GODDARD ISELIN PRESERVE—Addition—(Nassau County). The 42-acre preserve contains a woodland of beech, laurel, hickory, maple, oak, and white pine, as well as a large open meadow. This is the second donation in a planned series of four annual gifts of 10½ acres each. The donors are Mrs. Mary Dodderidge, Mrs. Ann Payne, and Mr. Sidney Mitchell, Jr. The Long Island Chapter will coordinate the management of this area.

ST. JOHN'S POND SANCTUARY—Raganella-Nuovo Addition—(Nassau County). The Long Island Chapter purchased 6 acres lying uphill from and contiguous to St. John's Pond Sanctuary. This addition affords bufferage for the existing preserve and provides increased control of the watershed. Typical flora includes various species of oak, mountain laurel, partridge berry, red maple, pepper bush, cinnamon ferns, pink lady slippers, and tulip trees. The property is to be managed by the Long Island Chapter.

North Carolina

ENO RIVER—Gebel Parcel—(Orange County). The 7-acre tract consists primarily of rolling hills and open fields with beautiful frontage on the Eno River. The property was purchased as part of the Conservancy's program to assist in obtaining lands along a 20-mile stretch of the Eno for the Eno River State Park.

T. S. COILE MEMORIAL TRAIL—Eno River—(Orange County). A donation with life estate from Mrs. T. S. Coile, 21.5 acres include steep bluffs covered with laurel and rhododendron and some floodplain adjacent to the Eno River. The property is to be transferred to the State of North Carolina for inclusion in the proposed Eno River State Park.

Texas

MARYSEE PRAIRIE (Liberty County). A gift of the Texas Conservation Foundation, the 3-acre tract is part of the only prairie remaining in the Big Thicket; once extensive, the prairie has dwindled to about 100 acres. Found here are grasses typical of Eastern tallgrass prairies: eastern gramma, Indian grass, paspalum, bluestems, uniolas, and tall dropseed. Wildflowers include large bluebell gentian, winecups, snow-on-the-prairie, tall prairie coneflower, and Indian plantain. The Texas Chapter, which has appointed a management committee for the area, hopes to acquire additional prairie tracts in the vicinity.

Virginia

HOG ISLAND, Virginia Coast Reserve—Higbee Addition—(Northampton County). 25 acres of dunes and marshland, located in the southern portion of the Island, were purchased with funds provided by the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust. The island's marshes serve as nursery grounds for shell and fin fish, and its shallow waters are particularly attractive to waterfowl and wading shorebirds.

Washington

RAWSON GRANT—Pennell Addition—(Kitsap County). Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Pennell, the 5-acre addition is primarily marshland with some upland mesic mixed forest. The tract provides habitat for pileated woodpeckers, marten, otter, shellfish, and numerous shorebirds and waterfowl. The area is to be transferred to Olympic College for use as a field study area.

BOGGS LAKE

by Annette Boushey

One of California's most distinctive ecosystems is the vernal pool—a depression in the earth which fills with winter rains. As the water retreats during spring and early summer, concentric rings of brilliantly flowering plants appear in succession. Sometimes the pool evaporates completely, with a last blaze of color filling in the very center as the water vanishes.

Thousands of tiny, jewel-like vernal pools once lay scattered across California's Great Central Valley, which became a vast, fragrant flower garden every spring. With the development of this rich valley for agriculture, and the leveling of the land, most of these pools have disappeared.

Boggs Lake is an exceptional vernal pool which has long been recognized by scientists as a significant botanical locality. Spurred by reports of a proposed development on the site, the California Native Plant Society urged the Conservancy to acquire the lake and its immediate surroundings. The Conservancy's Western Regional Office contacted the property's owner, the Fibreboard Corporation, to point out the need for preservation of the area. Last December the corporation, a forest products firm, donated 104 acres—Boggs Lake and a surrounding buffer—to The Nature Conservancy.

Named for the man who once ran a nearby sawmill, Boggs Lake is set not in grasslands, as are most vernal pools, but in a forest of Douglas fir, yellow pine, black oak and madrone. The hills that surround the pool are volcanic in origin, and scientists believe the lake may have formed in a depression left unfilled by lava flow. It is believed that dating the underlying volcanic rocks may shed some new light on the rate of speciation—the rate at which life forms differentiate into new biological species.

Boggs Lake, located approximately 120 miles north of San Francisco in Lake County, covers nearly 100 acres after a winter of heavy rain. It supports a fine example of California's Vernal pool flora—a distinctive and highly localized community which has adapted to survive the pool's extreme seasonal variation in moisture. A surrounding body of serpentine-derived soil is a further reason for the unusual flora. Such soil is toxic to many of the plants which would normally grow in this locality, forcing them to evolve adaptations not found in most other plants.

In spring, on the flowering slopes of Boggs Lake, three species of plants are found which are not known to exist anywhere else in the world: a species of Hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*), the Many-flowered Navarretia (*Navarretia plientha*), and a species of Dodder (*Cuscuta howelliana*). The pool's flowering rings also provide habitat for the southernmost specimens of at least two plants, and for many typical vernal pool flowers such as three kinds of Downingia, which make lovely mass displays.

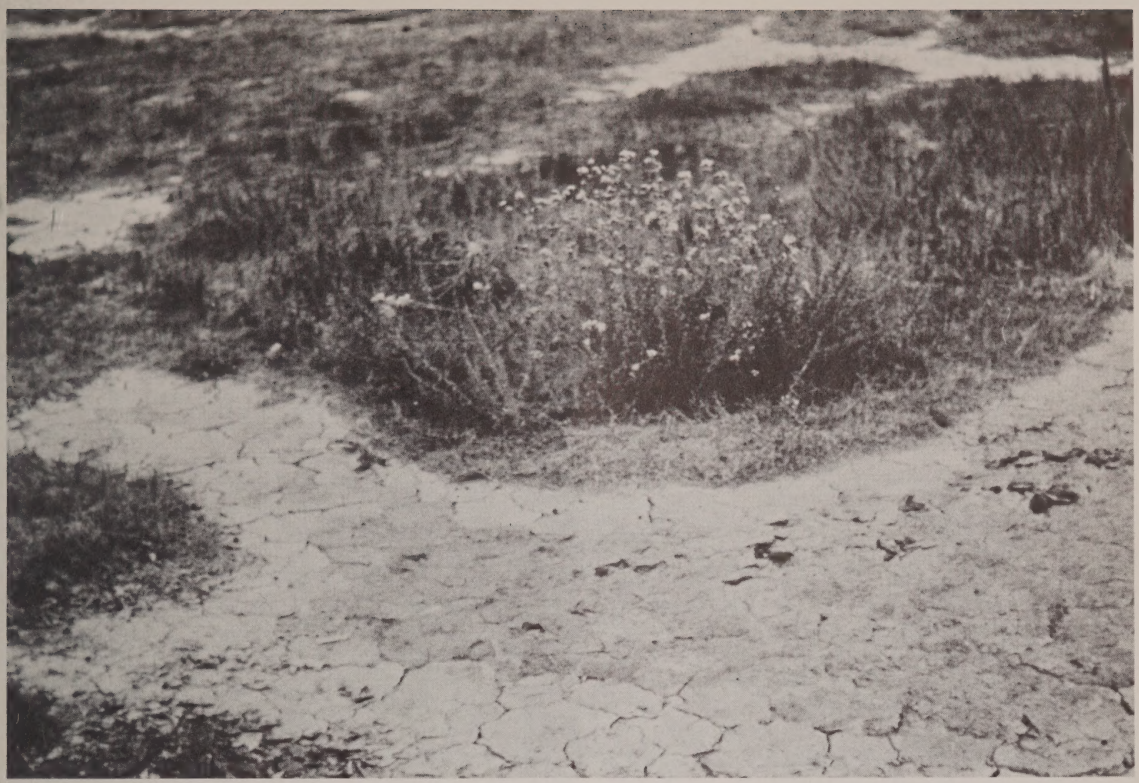
If you were to visit Boggs Lake in the summer, you would come out of the forest onto a broad, grassy meadow, sloping like a dish down to a marshy area, full of tules (a variety of bulrush). Walking through the tules, parting them with your arms in front of you as they closed behind, you would suddenly come upon a place of open water covered in part by a mat of vegetation, with water-lilies floating on top and ducks paddling about. You might see other birds as well: grebes and rails, lovely white egrets and great blue herons feeding in the shallows. The richness of life, which has followed the water line all spring, is concentrated in summer in this inner circle, hidden in the tules and pondweed.

In this central open water some fascinating plants are found, including Water-Shield (*Brasenia schreberi*) and Bladderwort (*Utricularia gibba,* which was first described from a collection made at Boggs Lake). The reddish-purple Water-Shield pushes its flowers above the surface of the water to pollinate, and then closes the flowers to bring them back under the water. The leaves of this plant, which are covered with a thick gelatinous layer, are of such unusual composition that specimens were once sent to a scientist in Czechoslovakia who had asked to study them. The yellow-flowered Bladderwort has evolved a perfect mechanical trap with which it catches tiny aquatic organisms under the water. Once trapped, the organisms decompose to form a nitrogenous food for the plant.

Countless numbers of creatures find a way to fit in with the cycles of life at Boggs Lake. Tree frogs chorus all night long around the silent water. There is a vast, largely unexplored insect world, with several species of rare aquatic insects that are presently being studied and observed. Some fresh water mollusks found in this pool are of great interest to scientists studying distributional patterns.

Though Boggs Lake has been the object of scientific study for years, we still know relatively little about this unique community and how its residents have adapted to such unusual conditions. Its value as a research and educational area for students of aquatic ecosystems is bound to increase as the number of similar vernal pools, in California and elsewhere, decreases.

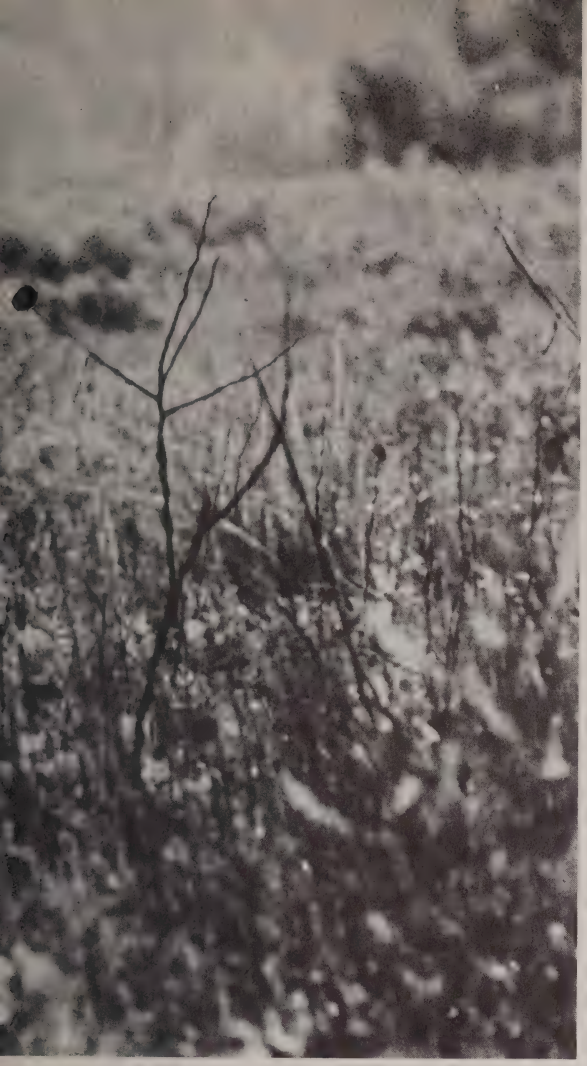
Boggs Lake is a place of inspiration to the layman as well as the scientist. To witness a complete natural system go through so dramatic a seasonal rebirth, bringing forth such a rich variety of unusual life forms, is an experience worth protecting. Preserving such places, where we can come to appreciate the incredible diversity of the forms of life, and to increase our awareness of the process of creation, is the heart of The Nature Conservancy's work. Our goal is shared by many, and is accomplished with the help of others, from individuals to corporations. George W. Burgess, Chairman of Fibreboard Corporation, said of the Corporation's donation of Boggs Lake: "We have recognized the desirability of preserving the lake and its rare flowers and are pleased to have been in a position to make this donation."



Summer at Boggs Lake: Above, an outer section of the pool where the water has completely evaporated. Right, the inner circle of open water surrounded by tules.

GENSBURG-MARKHAM PRAIRIE:

Virgin Grassland in Chicago's Shadow



by Joyce Marshall Brukoff

"To see an Illinois prairie in the spring of the year covered with golden Alexanders and pink shooting stars; or to view the midsummer prairies blanketed in grayish lead plants mingling with the wispy-awned porcupine grass; or, in autumn, to behold the tall waving expanse of big bluestem grass bedecked with asters, goldenrods and gentians, are all unforgettable sights."

—Dr. Robert Betz in *Prairie—Swell and Swale* by Torkel Korling

Dr. Betz could be describing the Gensburg-Markham Prairie, a 100-acre stretch of open grassland just 20 miles from the Chicago Loop. Located in the city of Markham, this virgin tract is one of the few remnants of the lacustrine prairie which flourished in what is now the Chicago Metropolitan Area. Led by Dr. Betz, a biology professor at Northeastern Illinois University and an authority on prairies, The Nature Conservancy has been working to acquire Gensburg-Markham.

The size and location of Gensburg-Markham Prairie are in themselves of sufficient scope to make the grassland a candidate for preservation, but it is the outstanding quality of the land that provides the real reason to save the prairie in its present state. Using core sampling, several sections of the prairie were tested in the fall of 1971, and the results substantiated the memories of local residents who said Gensburg-Markham had never been farmed. The prairie truly exists in a botanically virgin state.

The variety of species which the prairie supports is most unusual in consideration of its relatively small size. Over 255 plant species have been identified. This diversity is due in part to the presence of several soil types. The prairie is diagonally dissected by a sandy beach, and the acid, sandy soil supports plants such as colic root (*Aletris farinosa*) and hoary pea (*Tephrosia virginiana*). Alkaline, black soil in other areas allows species such as valerian (*Valeriana ciliata*) and prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) to grow in abundance. The presence of both wet and dry areas contributes further to the prairie's botanical diversity.

A complete listing of animals living on the prairie has never been made. However, the presence of bob-white quail (*Colinus virginianus*), the prairie green snake (*Opheodrys vernalis*) and the regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idelia*) is worthy of note. With the destruction of the prairies around the Chicago area, these three species have almost disappeared from the region.

Due to its diverse flora and fauna, Gensburg-Markham is expected to be used by a wide range of groups. With its nearness to Chicago and suburbs, the site will play host to both educational and environmental organizations, as well as groups who will come to enjoy the beauty of the flowering grassland. Several scientists have already expressed interest in carrying out research projects on the virgin prairie. People from throughout the Chicago region will have a chance to enjoy and study the area regularly, using a planned system of prairie paths.

Gensburg-Markham Prairie was first discovered by Karl Bartel of Markham about ten years ago. He approached the Cook County Forest Preserve to advise them of the prairie's existence and botanical value. At the time, Bartel was told the Forest Preserve District could do nothing with land that was not a forest! And so neighborhood children continued to dig holes and catch crayfish, frogs and butterflies. Some residents used the prairie for dumping junk, and commercial florists continued to make pilgrimages to the site to gather bunches of the delicate and popular

Above, a stand of tall grasses dominated by big bluestem. Below, a scarlet painted cup blooms.

Liatris. And just before the annual Memorial Day game, mowers came to cut a baseball diamond in the midst of the thick prairie cord grass, rattlesnake master and compass plant.

Then, one evening Dr. Betz went to visit relatives who live a few blocks from the Gensburg-Markham site. Taking an after-dinner stroll, he found himself gazing entranced at plants he realized must represent the growth of a virgin prairie. Bob Betz, always on the side of prairie preservation, called a meeting of scientists in the Chicago area. He presented the case of Markham and proposed that the prairie should be saved. There was unanimous agreement, but how to go about it?

A fortunate breakthrough came when the town of Markham requested Betz to give a presentation to the village planning commission. With the cooperation of the Chicago Open Lands Project, Betz convinced the commissioners that, indeed, here was land that should be saved. Although the prairie had already been subdivided for development, the Markham Commission agreed to give preservation efforts its full cooperation and support.

The plan to save Gensburg-Markham gained momentum. Dr. Betz sent an informative brochure to the joint owners of over half the property: Louis, David and Myer Gensburg of Los Angeles. It was discovered that the three brothers might give serious consideration to donating their property. In the meantime, through Dr. Betz' recommendation, Northeastern Illinois University agreed to hold title to the prairie and to manage and protect it.

Markham city officials agreed to cede the undeveloped streets and alleys in the preserve if the entire prairie were acquired. Assemblage of the total acreage promised to be a complicated and challenging task: in addition to the Gensburgs, nearly 40 owners held land within the designated boundaries. Various ways to finance the purchase of the remaining lots were being investigated by the University. A timely meeting between Dr. Betz and a representative of The Nature Conservancy provided the answer: funds could be provided by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (B.O.R.) in the Department of the Interior through the Illinois Department of Conservation. These monies are provided on a 50-50 matching basis with the local applicant. The donated Gensburg land could be used for the local portion of the match as long as the University did not receive the donation before the B.O.R. application was approved.

In December of 1971 The Nature Conservancy accepted the Gensburg brothers' donation of approximately 60 acres. Then, in July of 1972, the

Above, a bee alights on a lousewort flower.
Below, a cluster of sunflowers.

University received notice that the B.O.R. grant application had been approved. The $200,000 grant was designated for use in purchasing the remaining individually-held lots within the prairie.

Dan Pike, Director of the Illinois Chapter, explains the ensuing acquisition process that faced the Conservancy: "Ever since the time the application was made to B.O.R., we planned to use the matching funds to purchase an additional 33 acres from the remaining 36 owners. The plans hinged upon B.O.R. support, and little action could be taken until formal federal approval was given. We did have some indication of the magnitude of the work ahead when tax bills on the donated land arrived—we received 496 bills, one for each subdivision lot. The 1971 taxes were paid, but it was clear that we should try to secure tax exemption

Roaring Twenties developers saw Gensburg-Markham not as a prairie but as a blueprint for neatly ruled suburban lots and streets. Approximately 90 percent of the 100-acre grassland has been preserved through Conservancy action.

Goldenrod and white snakeroot

and a consolidation of tax bills. In late June the project's legal advisors, Mary Neff and Elsie Holzwarth, began attempts to obtain the exemption and consolidation. Seven months and a dozen attempts later, we felt the exemption was imminent. But on a Friday afternoon in January, Elsie Holzwarth was notified that neither the exemption nor consolidation had yet been approved. Further, exemption forms for 1972 taxes would have to be filed the following Monday. The two lawyers worked through Friday and all day Saturday to prepare the 496 exemption forms in quadruplicate. Although tax exemption has since been granted, consolidation of the tax lots still appears years off.

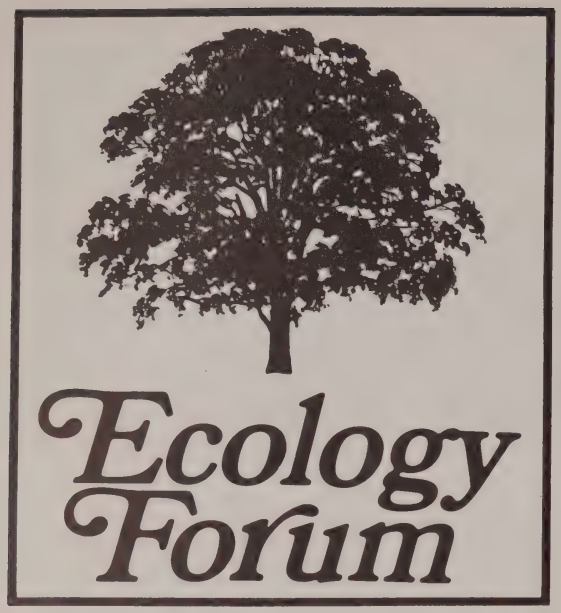
"It was in late July that the wheels began to roll to acquire the remaining tracts. A Chicago real estate firm familiar with the Markham region was contracted to locate and negotiate with the 36 landowners. Three months of planning, meetings and telephone conferences ensued between the Chapter office, the National Office, the lawyers and real estate agents. Finally in early November, standard documents were produced that would meet legal requirements while remaining flexible enough to use with each of the potential sellers.

"Near Thanksgiving of last year, the first contract for additional land was signed. Since that time, 26 tracts have been purchased from 10 owners, and at the time of this writing 15 more tracts are under contract. Although the final agreements have all been within the framework of the standard contract, many of these purchases required complicated and sometimes heated negotiations with the sellers.

"As acquisition efforts moved through the fall and into winter, the Illinois Chapter and the University cautiously monitored activities within the town of Markham. Dr. Thorpe Dresser, a Markham councilman and long-time ally of the Prairie, kept TNC advised on a builder's proposal for a road through the heart of the preserve. After numerous hearings, the Markham Planning Commission turned down the proposal. In addition, meetings with the Markham Park District have led to probable establishment of minimal visitor facilities adjacent to the new prairie preserve.

"Although the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation grant will be used to match the Gensburg land donation and thus reimburse TNC for the price of the additional purchases, the Chapter and the University are still faced with $90,000 in unpaid project costs, including appraisal costs, legal and realtor fees, taxes, a $50,000 fence, and expenses for a full-time custodian. A widespread fundraising campaign, including radio and television appearances, press coverage, mail solicitation and personal contact with local foundations, has been undertaken by the Chapter and the University."

Ninety percent of Markham Prairie's total acreage has been acquired. After months of studies, contacts with owners and government officials, and meetings with an assortment of lawyers, the acquisition of the final parcel may be as close as the end of 1973. With that final transaction, a long and exhausting effort to acquire a prairie will be complete. Gensburg-Markham is a project that at times appeared hopelessly complex; but, throughout the years of involvement by scores of individuals and a dozen organizations, a small handful of people devoted to the prairie saw their improbable dream become a reality. And, in addition to providing a sanctuary for the bobwhite and the bluestem within the limits of metropolitan Chicago, this project has proved to Chicago conservationists that careful and diligent efforts can prevail in even the most complicated of cases. Ask Bob Betz, who is enthusiastically pursuing another prairie, this one with twice the number of owners and twice the land value of Gensburg-Markham.



No. 8
by W. Brian Bedford

AN INVENTORY OF TNC PRESERVES

In the Summer '72 issue of the *News*, Ecology Forum presented the concept of a national natural areas inventory. Since such a program is now developing, it is appropriate to discuss the why and how of an inventory of TNC preserves and to examine the interrelationships between this effort and the national program. It is important to note that, in reality, the national effort will be by necessity a registry of inventories and inventory information and will not function as an inventory process itself. The magnitude of the job to be done is just too great. Those experienced in natural areas inventories realize that the best and most efficient job of acquiring primary data can be done by the regional groups with their intimate knowledge of and feeling for the areas involved. The role of a national entity will be that of a centralized data bank, providing information on both the system of natural areas and specific sites, and, in addition, functioning as a clearing house and information center for natural areas activities.

The Conservancy is working to acquire significant and viable representations of ecosystem types throughout the United States in order to insure the existence of biotic diversity. There is a great need for a categorization of those natural areas that have been acquired, both to determine our performance in accomplishing the above goal and to help us carry out our stewardship responsibility for these lands. We must identify and evaluate those parts of the system that have been protected in order to establish what gaps exist and what our future course of action must be. Criteria for this evaluation should include: ecological viability, biological diversity, uniqueness or rarity of the system in question, freedom from human impact, and the defensibility of each natural system. Utilizing such evaluation methodology, effective priorities for acquisition strategy can be developed. In addition, the acquisition of inventory data will help structure effective management and use programs of TNC preserves.

Phase one of the TNC inventory will be a data salvage operation, feeding information from the National Office files into a computerized data bank. The success of phase two—the updating, addition, and correction of the salvage information—will hinge on the volunteer constituency of The Nature Conservancy and will be based on the newly-developed Preserve Management program. Each Preserve Management Committee will receive the computer print-out on its area (produced by phase one), and will be responsible for verifying and completing the data format. It is felt that this system will provide the greatest ground truth for inventory information and will insure that files are kept current.

An example of a recent volunteer effort in this regard was the Barberville Falls Data Charette.* This activity was organized by the Barberville Falls Preserve Management Committee (headed by Tom Blandy and Dot Swartwout) to supply the information needed for both the TNC inventory and the preparation of the Preserve Management Master Plan. Participants in this innovative weekend data gathering session represented the following areas of expertise: soils and hydrology, geology, climatology, limnology, botany, entomology, ornithology, mammalogy, forestry, and regional planning. Assembled at the preserve on a Saturday morning, individuals received orientation and then went about their various tasks. Saturday evening an informal dinner for the entire group was held and the day's activities discussed. After dinner, I addressed the group on preserve man-

*Charette: A type of horse-drawn cart used by L'Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris to transport students' drawings from studios scattered throughout the city to a central place of judgment and on which students often rode, attempting to finish their work. Hence, in architectural schools and offices, the accomplishment of a great deal in a very short time.

agement, natural area inventories, the goals of The Nature Conservancy, and how all of these things interrelate with the weekend's activities. This meeting was open to the public, and several local residents came seeking information and welcomed the opportunity to interact with the Conservancy. Included in the evening's activities was a slide show of Barberville Falls, during which people shared their experiences in the region. This gathering of people accomplished a number of objectives:

(1) It initiated in a very good way the gathering of information needed for the TNC inventory and, thus, formed the basis for the preparation of a preserve master plan.

(2) It gave local people a chance to understand what The Nature Conservancy is and what it is all about.

(3) It provided the opportunity for interested and active people to get together, meet each other and establish a basis for what will undoubtedly be a very effective management program on the Barberville Falls preserve.

It is through the activities of such organizations as the Conservancy that a truly effective and significant national natural areas registry will come into being. For one of the goals of natural areas activity within the scientific community is the establishment of a national system of ecosystem preserves, supported by congressional appropriations and protected by federal legislation.

DR. WOODMAN RESIGNS

Everett M. Woodman has resigned as President of the Conservancy. Dr. Woodman, who had just finished his tenth year as President of Colby Junior College for Women when named Conservancy President in 1972, said that his professional background and training were not, he believed, fully compatible with the needs of the Conservancy. He continued that he felt the "positive thing to do for all interests is to turn over the reins to a more suitable successor."

Board Chairman Wallace C. Dayton, saying that Dr. Woodman's resignation has been accepted with both "reluctance and regret," extended on behalf of the Conservancy and its friends "heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for the future" to both Dr. and Mrs. Woodman. The Woodmans, in turn, who are life members, said that they will continue to be "positive, loyal and enthusiastic supporters of the Conservancy" in the years to come.

TURTLES YES; TAXES NO

In 1968 Mrs. Kate Eisig Tode donated to The Nature Conservancy the 33-acre Yonkers Nature Preserve adjacent to her home in Yonkers, New York. TNC leased this property to the Yonkers Historical Society in January, 1971, to manage and use for scientific and educational purposes.

When in 1971 the Conservancy filed its annual application for property tax exemption in New York, the City of Yonkers brought legal action against TNC's exemption, claiming that the Yonkers Preserve, which was fenced and locked by the Yonkers Historical Society, was not usable by or available to the public for scientific and educational uses. The city billed the Conservancy for property taxes in the amount of $16,948.24, plus interest charges, for the years 1969 to 1972. The Conservancy paid the taxes under protest.

Four courses of action were open: (1) lease or convey the property to the town for an intensive use public park, against the wishes of Mrs. Tode; (2) convey it to the Yonkers Historical Society; (3) convey it back to Mrs. Tode in the face of federal gift tax problems; or (4) fight. A fight had its drawbacks: sound evidence was lacking to prove that it was, in fact, an area of unique natural value and that the land would be best used on a limited basis for scientific purposes. If the fight were made and lost, the defeat could seriously impair the Conservancy's future tax exempt status in New York and, perhaps, in other states. However, it was decided that the risk must be taken due to the organization's commitment and obligation to protect lands it acquires.

The firm of Reardon and Thoma was retained by the Conservancy for the three-day trial in mid-April. After hearing expert testimony from Herb Hiller, a Conservancy field representative, Dr. Richard Pough of the Defenders of Wildlife and the Natural Areas Council, members of the local Audubon and New York Botanical Societies, and the Ecology Department Chairman at Kings College at Briarcliff Manor, the court found that the area contains a 200-year-old mature forest, and that it provides habitat for a number of rare Muhlenburg turtles and other flora and fauna which make it highly significant as a limited-use nature preserve. Based on these findings and the quality of the area, the court awarded the Conservancy its property tax exemption on Yonkers Nature Preserve from 1969 and thereafter.

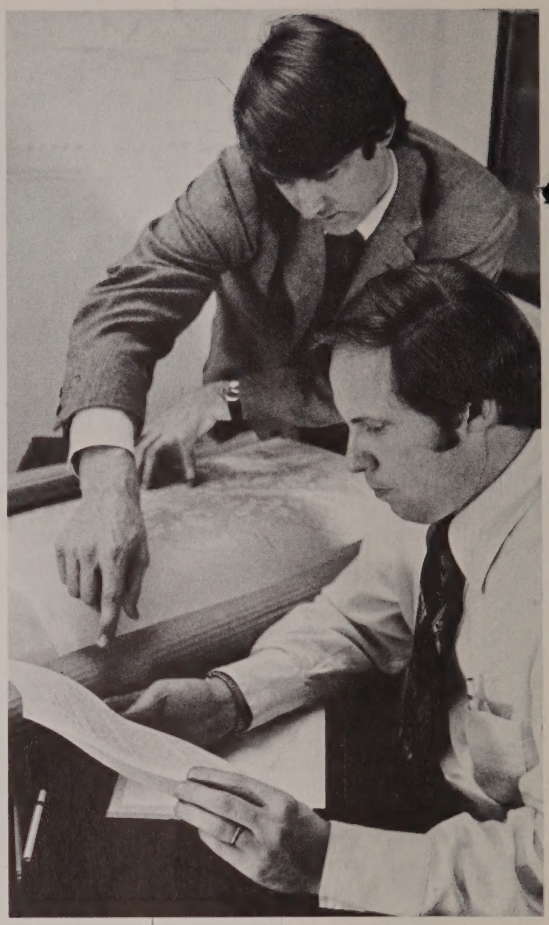
CORRECTION: The Dismal Swamp photograph which appeared on the cover of the Spring '73 issue of the *News* was incorrectly credited. The photographer was Walter H. Kilham, Jr.

BOARD APPOINTS NOONAN PRESIDENT

Patrick F. Noonan has been appointed new President of The Nature Conservancy. In announcing the action taken by the Board of Governors, Chairman Wallace C. Dayton said, "Pat Noonan has been directly involved in many of the major land acquisition successes of the Conservancy since joining the staff in 1969. He has brought new methods, new ideas, to the challenge of setting aside the natural lands. His extensive knowledge of the ways and means of land conservation, combined with his dedication to the task, will give the Conservancy an opportunity for greater impact in preserving natural lands in the coming years. The Conservancy thus can provide an increasingly significant contribution to the cause of conservation generally."

Mr. Noonan has served as Director of Operations for the Conservancy since April of 1970. He was appointed a Vice-President of the Conservancy in March of 1972. Under his direction, Conservancy effectiveness has spiraled upward with 140 projects in 1970, and 200 land conservation efforts in 1972. During his tenure as chief of operations for the Conservancy, major acquisitions have included seven islands along Virginia's untouched Atlantic coast, a forty square mile crescent of mangrove and marsh along the Florida Gulf Coast, and virgin prairie areas in six states, as well as critical areas on the northern California coast. However, he strongly believes that the Conservancy's greatest achievement during this period is reflected in the increasing volunteer involvement and accomplishments.

In his remarks after his appointment, Mr. Noonan said, "The Nature Conservancy's role is a unique one among conservation organizations. Our efforts are directed toward doing what no other organization does as its primary task—the actual conservation of land. I know that with the support and assistance of the Conservancy Board, membership and staff, we can become even more effective in reaching our objective. The land is a finite resource, not a commodity to be imperiously traded. The nation is rapidly facing, in many parts of the country, an acute natural land crisis; the pressure is increasing, and natural land is now more than ever before threatened from every direction. We at the Conservancy must vigorously apply the proven methods of land conservation, while simultaneously seeking new, practical, and imaginative methods to multiply the effort to preserve and protect a greater portion of the natural world."



Pat Noonan, seated, confers with Staff Legal Assistant, Bill Nickel, regarding acquisition of one of the Atlantic coastal islands.

Before joining the Conservancy staff four years ago, Mr. Noonan was in private practice as a land planning consultant in Washington, D.C. Prior to that he was a senior park planner for the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission. He has earned Master's degrees in both City and Regional Planning and in Business Administration. He is also a licensed real estate broker and professional land appraiser, as well as a member of a number of conservation organizations.

"One of our jobs at the Conservancy, both at the staff and volunteer levels, is to bring an increasingly professional team together to concentrate on the preservation and protection of natural lands. This will mean lawyers and scientists, managers and brokers, marketing people and naturalists, active members and dedicated supporters—all working together for the future. It will mean providing a private response from a growing base of support to the public need to safeguard vital segments of the living land."

Without land we cannot live.
We must preserve vital segments of remaining natural areas if land is to continue to support man and the diversity of life which still exists. We cannot afford to do anything else.
Please contribute to the General Fund.

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